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Letter dated 9 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Turkmenistan wishes to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Turkmenistan is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, and it has always been fully committed to the aims of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In 1997, Turkmenistan adopted a law on refugees. Over the past several years it became home to more than 13,000 refugees. Particularly, by the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan of 4 August 2005, 13,245 refugees living in Turkmenistan received Turkmen citizenship. On the same date, by the decision of the President of Turkmenistan, 3,053 refugees received permanent residence in Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan stands ready to cooperate fully with all members of the Executive Committee in order to find constructive solutions to the challenges facing the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In the light of the above, the Government of Turkmenistan hopes that the Economic and Social Council will give favourable consideration to this request to become a member of the Executive Committee, and that it will recommend that the General Assembly increase the members of the Executive Committee.

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations

* E/2010/100.

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